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The BG News January 29, 2008

Bowling Green State University

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Tuesday

January 29, 2008
Volume 102, Issue 92
WWW.BGNEWS.COM

CAMPUS

Award-winning author opposes online journals

Meg Cabot, author of 'The Princess Diaries,' provides writing workshops to give teens a personal and more private outlet for their frustrations | **Page 3**

NATION

New York proposes an illegal drug tax

The contended tax is one way New York attempts to raise revenue in a time of economic struggles | **Page 10**

WORLD

Five soldiers killed in Mosul, Iraq

Insurgents bombed a U.S. patrol in one of al-Qaida's last major urban strongholds | **Page 9**

FORUM

Grading system generates little effort

Greg Chick proposes that University grading system have pluses and minuses | **Page 4**

REGION

Detroit mayor's chief of staff plans to resign

After recent allegations of an affair with the mayor of Detroit, Chief of Staff Christine Beatty is set to resign in February | **Page 6**

SPORTS

Basketball flip flop

Men's team goes 2-0 on the week, but the women, who were in the Sweet 16 last season, suffered a tough week and finished 0-2 | **Page 7**

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

What would you find if you looked under the bed?



SILVIA MORALES
Sophomore, Business

"Boxes of old books. I don't really live in my room, it's kind of a storage space. Definitely Harry Potter." | **Page 4**

WEATHER



TODAY
Showers
High: 42, Low: 17



TOMORROW
Scattered Flurries
High: 19, Low: 17

Happy 21st from USG?

Senators discuss an e-mail message to increase awareness of excessive drinking

By Kristen Vasas
Reporter



Nick Gamero
Vice President,
Undergraduate
Student Govt.

Getting excessively drunk with friends on your 21st birthday might be a thing of the past thanks to an e-mail message from the Undergraduate Student Government.

That's what senators hope will occur after debating the benefits of sending out a cautionary e-mail at last night's general assembly meeting.

The resolution, which called for an increased awareness of the effects of drinking, was passed although numerous senators doubted the effectiveness of the e-mails.

"There is no way this e-mail will stop students from drinking on their birthdays," Vice President Nick Gamero said. "However, it will create awareness and let students know that there is a way to be safe and have fun at the same time."

The e-mail, which would

personally be sent to each student on his or her 21st birthday, would call for students to be safe if they choose to drink and would include a list of numbers for students to call.

"A resolution to include the phone numbers of 2-Ride, the shuttle services, Supercab and any other relevant phone numbers will be discussed," said Speaker Jeremy Lehman, who was also a part of the e-mail creation process.

Gamero decided to propose the idea to USG senators Liesyl Dye and Jessica Molina, who wrote the resolution, after he witnessed a similar idea being used at Ohio State University.

According to Gamero, a friend

of his who attends OSU received an e-mail on his 21st birthday, which told the story of a student's death due to alcohol and the effects it had on his remaining family members.

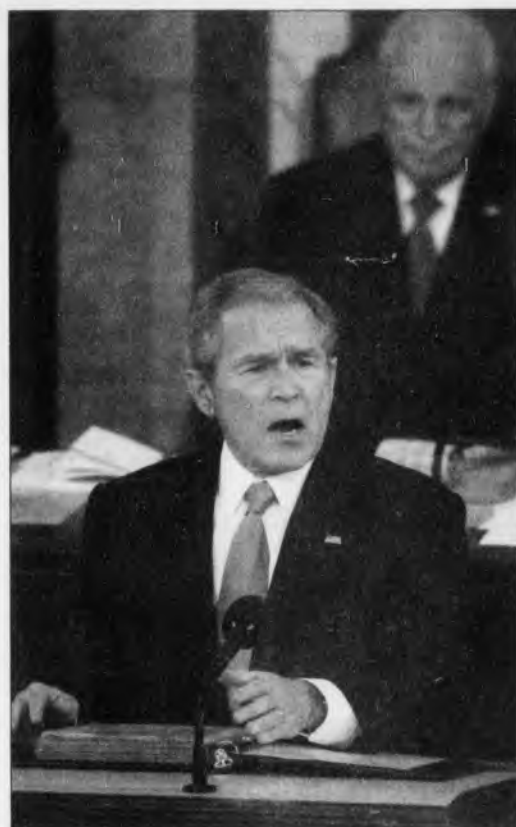
Although Gamero followed the general idea behind the OSU e-mail, he decided to make his e-mail less graphic and lower key in order to appeal to University students.

"We want people to read the e-mail so it has to be in a language that the students can understand," he said. "If we can reach out to one person, then the e-mail will have made a difference."

Senators were also concerned with the wording of the e-mail.

According to Dye, several of the sentences included in the e-mail could be seen as crude, and possibly misleading. However, legislation has already been set to change the text of the e-mail

See **USG** | Page 2



RON EDMONDS | AP PHOTO

BUSH STATE OF UNION: Vice President Dick Cheney watches as President Bush delivers his State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress.

Bush calls for economic improvements, steady course

By Terence Hunt
The Associated Press

State of the Union Address

WASHINGTON — President Bush, standing before Congress one last time, urged the nation yesterday night to persevere against gnawing fears of recession and stay patient with the long, grinding war in Iraq. He pressed Congress to quickly pass a plan to rescue the economy.

"We can all see that growth is slowing," Bush said in a blunt acknowledgment of rising food and gas prices, increasing unemployment and turmoil in the housing and financial markets.

He cautioned against accelerating U.S. troop withdrawals from Iraq, saying that would jeopardize progress achieved over the last year.

"We have unfinished business before us, and the American people expect us to get it done," Bush declared. It was his final State of the Union address, and he faced a hostile, Democratic-led Congress eager for the end of his term next January.

With his approval rating near its all-time low, Bush lacked the political clout to push bold ideas and he didn't try. He called on lawmakers to urgently approve a \$150 billion plan — worked out with House leaders — to avoid or soften any recession through tax rebates for families and incentives for businesses to invest in new plants and equipment.

"The actions of the 110th Congress will affect the security and prosperity of our nation long after this session has ended," the president said.

Senate Democrats want to expand the economic stimulus plan with rebates for senior citizens living off Social Security and extensions of unemployment benefits for the jobless. Bush said those changes "would delay it or derail it and neither option is acceptable."

He also pushed Congress to extend his tax cuts, which are to expire in 2010, and said allowing them to lapse would mean higher tax bills for 116 million American taxpayers. For those who say they're willing to pay more, Bush said, "I welcome their enthusiasm, and I am pleased to report that the IRS accepts both checks and money orders."

Before speaking, Bush turned to shake hands with a smiling House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Vice President Dick Cheney, seated behind him. Bush's wife, Laura, and their twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna, sat in a VIP box. His speech lasted 53 minutes, interrupted frequently by applause, most often by Republican lawmakers.

Since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the war has been a main topic of

See **BUSH** | Page 2

LEARNING TO FIGHT



CARRIE CRANE | THE BG NEWS

BEGINNING SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN: Last night Sgt. John Shurnaker of the University Department of Public Safety helped student Kate Smiley learn self defense techniques that could help save her life in a future situation.

Women's health is a priority at the University

By Shelby Schroeder
Reporter

Tucked between Oak Grove Cemetery and the music building, the Health Center is abuzz with the shuffling of insurance documents, a walk-up pharmacy and health-conscious female clients.

The 'women's clinic,' as it's known to some at the University, isn't a special building with offices and exam rooms of its own, but the name given to a few dedicated physicians operating within the Student Health Service.

The Center offers routine gynecological and breast exams, sexually-transmitted infection screening, prescription medicines and contraceptives, offering students the same services as the typical doctor's office.

Students can check for STIs, including HIV, with a simple swab of their gums or a urine test. Women can now also choose from the pill, the ring, the patch or the shot, all available between economics and a trip to the library.

Barbara Hoffman, a certified nursing practitioner who



BERNARDO AGUIAR | THE BG NEWS

PATIENT CARE: Barbara Hoffman, a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, prepares a Pap

specializes in women's health, said she is pleased new methods of testing and birth control are available at the University.

"We're very comprehensive in what we offer students," she said. Hoffman added that she's amazed with the medical advancements in contraceptives and testing they offer as a college hospital. Students have

access to advancements like the NuvaRing, DepoVera and emergency contraceptives, like the controversial "Plan B."

In August 2006, proposed abortion coverage in the University's mandated health insurance policy led to a large debate among students. Some

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CENTER

From Page 1

were offended that their insurance premium could go toward paying for abortions for pregnant classmates. Ultimately, the coverage was dropped and students who wanted it were required to pay an additional premium.

Despite some vocal opposition on campus, Hoffman says the only roadblocks she's encountered have been ordinary budgetary concerns, and affirmed area politics have not been a concern. She said her employment is proof that the University is concerned with health, not politics.

"To have a women's health practitioner—that speaks a lot in itself," she said. "There are a lot of campuses that don't have one at all."

Women's Center Director Mary Krueger, who leads the women's advocacy, said she refers students to the Health Center when they have reproductive health questions.

"I hold the Health Center in very high regard," Krueger said, adding that on a sliding scale, the campus services are more affordable than those at the county hospital.

Though her five-by-eight square foot exam room is filled with updated equipment and health-related reading materials, Hoffman believes the Health

Center has room to grow. Stirrups extended outward, Hoffman struggles to maneuver between the wall and table.

In December, the Board of Trustees announced that the Health Center would be renovated as part of a campus-wide renewal effort, and Hoffman said Health Center employees hope more, larger exam rooms are part of the update.

Construction is slated to begin in late 2009.

Three years ago, the staff expanded hours to see students later in the evening.

BGSU's Health Center opens an hour earlier, and stays open three hours later Monday through

Thursday, than Ohio University's. Its hours also extend past those of Kent State, Ball State and Miami universities on most days.

Hoffman said the center's later hours are symbolic of the center's emphasis on accessibility.

Jacqueline Legg, business manager for Ohio University's health services, said the Athens university needs to extend its hours once OU's finances allow it.

For the staff at the Health Center, earlier shifts and extended hours are part of the job. Hoffman is still amused by surprised visitors to the Center.

"It's hard to imagine there's still someone who doesn't know we're here," she said.

BUSH

From Page 1

Bush's annual addresses to Congress. He said last night the buildup of 30,000 U.S. troops and an increase in Iraqi forces "have achieved results few of us could have imagined just one year ago."

"Some may deny the surge is working," Bush said, "but among the terrorists there is no doubt. Al-Qaida is on the run in Iraq and this enemy will be defeated."

Still, Bush said, "The mission in Iraq has been difficult and trying for our nation. But it is in the vital interest of the United States that we succeed."

He made no commitment about withdrawing additional troops from Iraq, and he said Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. general there, has warned that pulling Americans out too quickly could undermine Iraqi forces, allow al-Qaida to regroup and trigger an increase in violence.

"The mission in Iraq has been difficult and trying for our nation. But it is in the vital interest of the United States that we succeed."

George W. Bush | President

"Members of Congress: Having come so far and achieved so much, we must not allow this to happen," the president said.

Bush said U.S. adversaries in Iraq have been hit hard, though "they are not yet defeated and we can still expect tough fighting ahead."

There are 158,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, a number that is expected to drop to 135,000 by July.

There are 28,000 in Afghanistan, the highest number of the war, which began there in October 2001. Congress, despite repeated attempts, has been unable to force troop withdrawals or deadlines for pullbacks, and Iraq has receded as an issue in Washington.

Aides had said Bush would not use the address as a summation of his time in office. But he did, turning to the phrase "over the past seven years" when talking about some of the most-prized efforts of his administration: tax relief, federal involvement with religious charities, the global freedom agenda and increased funding for veterans.

He spoke of trust in people — taxpayers, homeowners, medical researchers, doctors and patients, students, workers, energy entrepreneurs and others — to drive their own success and that of the country. The unspoken message: Government isn't the answer.

alcohol. Instead, they hope to refer students to the experts, namely the Wellness Center and Bacchus Gamma.

"This is the first step in a long process," Dye said. "It's a small step, but if we can help one student, then it's worth all the time we put into it."

Reporter's Notes: According to Senator April Jackson, 481 signatures have been collected for the proposal of a new dining hall in Harshman. As of right now, Jackson in planning

on creating a dining option similar to Destinations, which was eliminated from the quads this year.

An open forum will be held on Wed., Jan. 30 at 9 p.m. in 208 Union to discuss parking issues on campus. Senator Leo Almedia is in charge of the program.

A discussion panel explaining the potential switch of Spring Break to coincide with St. Patrick's Day will be held on Wed., Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the Falcon's Nest.

CITY BRIEF

BG NEWS WIRE SOURCES

Man makes threats at Wooster Street bar

Police responded to a report early yesterday that a man at Kamikaze's was making threats and had a gun. Upon arrival at 121a. m. patrons at the bar pointed to Ryan D. Solt, 26, of Bowling Green. Solt admitted to police he told several patrons 'you better stop jawing with me or else,' but said he never said he had a gun. Police discovered Solt did not have a gun and he was arrested for inducing panic.

Suspect arrested following burglary

Police responded to a burglary on Willowood Circle around 2:45 a.m. yesterday. Residents said they heard their back door close while they were laying in bed, and \$14 was stolen from a purse and about \$40 from a wallet in their kitchen. Police spotted a subject running North on Willowood Circle and pursued him on foot. John A. Sattler II, 18, of Bowling Green, was arrested for burglary after his fingerprints matched positive and \$14 was recovered. Wayne R. Bailey, 20, of Bowling Green, was spotted heading west on Pearl Street in the passenger seat of a vehicle with his mother. Police pulled the vehicle over and recovered \$40 from Bailey. Bailey had an active warrant and was arrested for burglary.

CORRECTION POLICY

We want to correct all factual errors. If you think an error has been made, call The BG News at 419-372-6966.

The results of The BG News Web poll printed in Forum yesterday were incorrect.

The correct data are:
"How long could you go without checking Facebook or MySpace?"
Less than a day: 47 percent
I never check them/I don't have accounts: 15 percent
One or two days: 15 percent
A couple of weeks: 13 percent
A week: 10 percent

BLOTTER

THURSDAY

6:27 A.M.

Police were dispatched to ground floor men's restroom in the Tech Building for a report of the missing toilet paper dispenser. Upon arrival to the restroom, the officer was able to confirm the dispenser was missing. The whereabouts of the dispenser is unknown at this time and there are no leads.

FRIDAY

7:51 P.M.

Police received a report of a missing wooden sign in front of the Delta Tau Delta house on Clough Street. The sign was last seen on Monday, Jan. 21. There are no leads on the missing sign.

SATURDAY

12:06 A.M.

Two female students in Harshman were referred to Student Discipline after a fight broke out in the dorm. One of the students knocked on the other one's door and then ran off. When the person went to confront the girl who knocked on her door, a pushing match started and punches were eventually exchanged. Neither student was charged in the incident.

12:48 A.M.

Alexander Keyer of Waterville, Ohio, Scott Maruna of Wooster, Ohio, Michael Zimmerman of Dover, Ohio, and 2 minors who were on campus were all cited with underage under the influence. There were several empty and partially empty liquor bottles found in the room and the three University students dumped them out.

3:43 A.M.

Kara Klein of Powell, Ohio, was cited for underage under the influence in the Kappa Kappa Gamma house. When officers arrived, Klein was passed out on the floor and was unable to talk or sit under her own power. She was transported to Wood County Hospital for treatment.

9:46 P.M.

Michael Dill of Youngstown, Ohio, was cited for underage possession. Dill was located in Lot 3 and when a search was done of his vehicle, the officer found a BB gun and a flask with and alcoholic beverage. Dill said he got the alcohol from a party earlier in the day.

SUNDAY

10:15 A.M.

Johnathon C. Suber, 19, of Fostoria, Ohio, was cited for underage under the influence of alcohol. Police said Suber was found sitting in a parked vehicle at Ridge Elementary and smelled of alcohol.

2:16 P.M.

Several items were reported stolen from the laundry room of a South Summit Street apartment complex.

2:58 P.M.

A stereo was reported stolen from a locked car on South College Street overnight.

10:55 P.M.

Immanuel Larcher of Columbus, Ohio, was cited with possession of drug paraphernalia in MacDonald. An officer found several empty plastic bags with marijuana residue in them as well as a glass pipe in the room.

11:32 P.M.

Dreone D. Jamerson, 22, of Bowling Green, was cited for operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

MONDAY

12:41 A.M.

Kyle G. Wagner, 21, of Arlington, Ohio, was cited for operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

12:59 A.M.

Benjamin F. Staab, 23, of Grandview Heights, Ohio, was issued a civil citation for urinating on Pike Street.

1:00 A.M.

Danielle M. Hoffman, 20, of Clyde, Ohio, was cited for underage possession of alcohol.

1:03 A.M.

Phillip D. Pollard II, 20, of Westerville, Ohio, was cited for operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. Police said a small bag of marijuana was also found in Pollard's vehicle, and he was cited for possession.

1:22 A.M.

Charles D. Lowe, 19, of Olmsted Township, Ohio, was cited for underage possession of alcohol.

1:51 A.M.

Natalie C. Durnwald, 22, and Kelly A. Biehler, 21, both of Fremont, Ohio, were cited for disorderly conduct for fighting at One 49 North.

2:36 A.M.

Drew D. Westall, 22, of Findlay, Ohio, was cited for disorderly conduct for urinating in Lot 1.

2:56 A.M.

Paige Renee Salamin, 24, of Bowling Green, was issued a civil citation for carrying a real estate sign down North Enterprise Street.

5:34 A.M.

Daniel Joseph Konopinski, 24, of Strongsville, Ohio, and Jason E. Moore, 22, of Bowling Green, were arrested for disorderly conduct for fighting. Ediz Zeki Tasan, 24, of Bowling Green, was arrested for disorderly conduct with persistence.

ONLINE: Go to bgnews.com for the complete blotter list.

USG

From Page 1

as soon as possible.

"We want to make the message clearer, but at the same time we want the students to take the time and read it," Dye said. "However, I am being realistic, and I'm not expecting every student to read what we send them."

Dye emphasized the fact that USG senators are not the ones studying the effects of

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Cooking schools eliminate trans fats



AP FILE PHOTO

GETTING HEALTHIER: Culinary arts students now bake with trans fat-free cooking oil which allows for healthier food.

By Michelle R. Smith
The Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The movement to ban artery-clogging trans fats from food has a new venue: cooking schools.

The places that train the people who will someday be feeding the rest of us are cutting back or eliminating artificial trans fats from their classrooms, saying they have a responsibility to teach students how to cook healthy foods.

"It's a very welcome change," said John O'Connell, 19, a sophomore culinary arts student at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, one of the nation's largest cooking schools.

The school has started phasing out trans fats in its restaurants, hotels and dining services on four campuses around the country, and plans to be trans fat-free by the fall semester.

"We have made sure that we do the right thing," said Karl J. Guggenmos, dean of culinary education.

Other cooking schools, such as Le Cordon Bleu Schools North America, with 13 locations, are looking at reducing or eliminating trans fats, said Kirk T. Bachmann of Le Cordon Bleu, which is based in Hoffman Estates, Ill. The prestigious Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., banned trans fats from nearly all its classes and restaurants in 2005.

Artificial trans fats are often found in oils used to deep-fry foods such as french fries and in baked goods. Bakers like to use shortenings with trans fats because cakes stay fresher longer, frosting is easier to use, and they cost less than butter.

Trans fats are created when hydrogen is added to liquid cooking oils to harden them. Along with saturated fats,

they raise levels of so-called bad cholesterol, increasing the risk of heart disease.

New York City banned cooking oils with trans fat from all restaurants last year, and several states and cities have debated similar measures. A number of fast-food restaurants chains are making the switch to trans fat-free cooking oils.

At the Culinary Institute of America, trans fat is one of the "hot button" topics, said school spokesman Stephan Hengst.

"Once they get out in the industry, they've got to understand it," he said of students.

The school has about 3,000 students at its main campus and three branches, and boasts such famous alumni as restaurateur Charlie Palmer and best-selling author and chef Anthony Bourdain.

Trans fats are banned at the school, Hengst said, except in advanced cake decorating classes where students work with trans fat-based shortening. But no one eats the cakes once they're decorated; they're thrown away.

At Johnson & Wales, it took months of work to get trans fats out of the school's curriculum. Their textbook has hundreds of recipes and about 50 included trans fats, said Wanda Cropper, who oversees the school's baking and pastry institute.

Eliminating it from some recipes was relatively easy — butter and olive oil are often good substitutes. But baking was different. Getting the right texture, color, smell and taste was tricky, and took a lot of trial and error, Cropper said.

"Baking is a science. You can't just substitute," she said.

Until recently, there weren't many good options for trans fat-free baking products, Guggenmos said.

Author proposes teens record feelings in journals, not online

By Hillary Rhodes
The Associated Press

It's OK to hate Taylor, or to think that Seth only told you he liked Allison so that you would tell Courtney, or to wish that your mom would disappear.

Teenagers have a right to gripe. But they should do it in their personal journals, not online for the world to see, says award-winning writer Meg Cabot.

The author of "The Princess Diaries" hastened up with the American Library Association to hold events across the country for young people who want to learn more about airing their thoughts in writing the traditional way: with a pen.

"...Why don't we go back to keeping regular, old-fashioned journals ...?"

Meg Cabot | Author

The lack of privacy among teenagers online is a growing area of concern, and experts say there's a fine line between healthy expression and TMI (too much information). They say posting thoughts online can leave teens overexposed to potential bullies, college admissions officers, predators — or just offended friends and loved ones.

At the "Teen Journal Writing Workshops," participants can decorate their own journals and learn about writing in them from a best-seller who uses her own teenage diaries as material for her books.

"We're saying, 'Why don't we go back to keeping regular, old-fashioned journals where it is OK to vent, but it doesn't hurt anybody, because nobody else is reading it but you?'" says Cabot, whose latest book in the Princess Diaries series, "Princess Mia," came out in December.

Getting teens to pull the plug is no small hurdle: A recent survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project found 59 percent of teenagers said they participate in at least one form of content-creation online.

facebook and your future boss?

By Melissa Rayworth
The Associated Press

You've heard the warnings: Don't upload photos of yourself drinking directly from tequila bottles. Don't blog about your mind-numbing job. Don't post volatile rants — unless you're looking to offend your boss, upset your mom, maybe even lose a beauty-queen title.

For the average American employee using a social-networking site, though, wild party photos and shocking language probably aren't the issue. It's the subtler things: the stuff you'd never want to

share with your boss, but — through Facebook or MySpace — unwittingly do. Think embarrassing comments from a maturity-challenged former roommate, goofy pictures from last summer's vacation, or the time stamp showing you were playing Scrabble instead of meeting an important deadline.

Online social networking, originally the playground of pre-workforce Americans, is now commonplace in offices across the country. How do we navigate this new landscape, which builds business contacts and feeds friendships even as it creates a col-

lision between the personal and the professional?

Ignoring these sites isn't an option. MySpace, LinkedIn, Friendster, Facebook, even niche sites like Digital Rodeo — the list continues to grow. More than half of Facebook's users are now outside college, and the company says people 25 and older are the fastest-growing group on its site.

Opting out could brand you as unenlightened, and signing up but refusing "friend" requests from co-workers or your boss is an uncomfortable solution. Rejection's ill will could even trump the fallout from embarrassing photos.

GET A LIFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some events taken from events.bgsu.edu

8 - 9 a.m.

"Student Art Glass Association"
130 Union

8 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Muslim Student Association
Prayer Room
204 Olscamp

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

UAO Poster Sale
228 Union

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Focus the Nation
Tablespace 118-10 Union

12 - 4 p.m.

Male Calendar Sales
Tablespace 118-6 Union

12 - 1 p.m.

Weight Watchers
316 Union

4 - 5 p.m.

Advanced Leaders in Residence
210 University

6 - 8 p.m.

Men's Etiquette Dinner
101A Olscamp

6 - 8 p.m.

Women's Etiquette Dinner
101B Olscamp

6 - 8 p.m.

SMART, FAFSA and
Scholarship Information
Program
314 Union

8 p.m.

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Flu Shots will be offered by the Student Health Service to BGSU students, faculty/staff, spouses, alumni and retirees. In addition to being offered at the Student Health Service, they will be given at the following locations throughout campus:

Wednesday	January 16	BTSU	1st Floor Lobby	10:30 am - 3:00 pm
Thursday	January 17	Rec Center	Lobby	11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Wednesday	January 23	BTSU	1st Floor Lobby	10:30 am - 3:00 pm
Tuesday	January 29	BTSU	1st Floor Lobby	10:30 am - 3:00 pm
Wednesday	January 30	Rec Center	Lobby	3:00pm - 7:00 pm

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PEOPLE ON THE STREET

What would you find if you looked under the bed?



"A futon."

CURTIS KNIGHT,
Senior, Criminal Justice



"Everything else that doesn't fit in my dorm room."

ROSIE CROMMETT,
Junior, Early Childhood Education



"I can't say my answer. It wouldn't be appropriate."

MIKE DEL VECCHIO,
Junior, Theatre



"A desk and my dresser with lots of makeup and clothes."

KELLY ROGERS,
Junior, Theatre

VISIT US AT BGNEWS.COM

Have your own take on today's People On The Street? Or a suggestion for a question? Give us your feedback at bgnews.com.

OUR VIEW

Support local efforts for Kenya

With all the attention being paid to the race for presidential nominations here, it's easy for us to forget how lucky we are to live in the United States.

No matter whether you support McCain, Clinton, Huckabee, Obama or whomever, we can rest assured you won't turn to rioting in the streets if your candidate loses.

We know you won't murder innocent civilians with machetes or burn them alive in their homes.

Even after disputed elections here in 2000 and 2004, we know the transition to the next president will be peaceful.

In the last month, we've learned the people of Kenya haven't been so lucky.

Hundreds have died, and thousands have been displaced, in post-election violence since last December.

The elections are being challenged as corrupt,

but that's not our focus at the moment.

We want to commend the students involved in the BGSU Kenya 5K Benefit Run, who have transformed their annual event into an effort to help those affected by the violence.

They've done everything they can to bring our attention to what's going on in the world, and they deserve our help.

Find them at their table in the Union and donate whatever you can, be it bed sheets and blankets or just a few spare dollars.

Try to think of your life turned upside down after violence took hold of Bowling Green after November's polls. It's unimaginable.

We're not often asked to help as our nation tries to "bring democracy to the world."

But this is one chance we, as students, have to actually help those in need where democracy goes awry.

Is our 'school spirit' misdirected?

BG!

S...who?!

Apparently we lack school spirit, according to a front-page story yesterday.

Some people really just like Ohio State or Michigan. Some people say they would have school spirit if only our teams didn't play so poorly on national TV.

But if that's why we really don't have school spirit, then there's another kind of "spirit" that's lacking on campus — and this one's more important than how much we care about our sports teams.

It's how much we care about our professors and our classes.

You know, that part of going to college we usually call "learning"?

Would you even have considered these factors if you were asked about "school spirit"? We hope so. But nobody in our story seemed to have that thought.

Do you feel proud of what kind of education you're receiving at the University? Does the administration take time to make sure your class sizes are small enough, or that your professors are encouraging you to challenge your preconceptions?

Maybe our reporter just talked with a group of students who happen to only care about sports.

But the worry is that the sample wasn't fluky at all.

YOU DECIDE

What do you think school spirit means? E-mail us at thenews@bgnews.com and tell us what you think, or comment on our Web site.

Gimme an 'A' (plus)! Gimme a 'B' (minus)!



GREG CHICK
COLUMNIST

We college students are generally a lazy bunch. We wait until the last possible hour to study or write that paper, polls show how generally apathetic we are in the political process, we deliberate the necessity of going to class with the approximate energy exerted in waking up and reaching the classroom and so on.

While I generally thoroughly enjoy being a glutton of inactivity, I feel as though the institution I attend should make it its mission to "whip me into shape," per say.

Why, then, does the University support a grading system that endorses being such a sloth? Not having the plus/minus in the current grade assessments of students is a policy that encourages light-hearted effort in academics. Allow me to illustrate.

Last semester, I was rocking a solid 'B'/'B-' going into the final assignment, a long paper with all the trimmings: required in-text citations, thorough research, APA format and an extensive works cited page.

With the idea of my journey back to my homeland, reunion with family and friends and early Christmas morning cinnamon rolls in my head, I had little motivation to put forth a hard and honest effort to begin with.

Coupled with this was the realization that as only about 15 percent of my final grade, a perfect score on this paper, still would not have been sufficient to raise my grade to an 'A-' (which beautifully would have transformed into a much prettier 'A').

The system guarantees no reward for aiming high, as even the realistic goal of bumping my grade up to a 'B+' would still be ignored in my final grade report.

Once I realized the futility of exercising full effort into this assignment, the next logical step for me, the lazy college student, was to ask, "How low can I go?" Well I reckoned that anywhere between a 'B' and an 'A' would keep me at the status quo.

Then I utilized some advanced logarithms and scientific calculations to deduce that even a low 'C' on the paper would only solidify me with a wretched 'B-'.

Thankfully, I thought, when my grades fall from the sky in late December and into the computer screen my parents demand to see, they'll be none the wiser to my last minute purge of effort.

I'm sure this situation is not unique to me. More likely is a tradition of all University students at the end of the semester doing internal computations such as this to determine how to rig the system best in their favor.

This silly practice wouldn't transpire if the University would adapt the commonly accepted practice of actually reporting the

"The current system is a disingenuous reflection of the time, energy, and work students put into their academics."

grade students earn. It's a bold idea: honest reflection of academic work in grade reports.

I won't refute that the current system has its benefits. Just this semester I went into the final exam with a 'B+' and ended up with an 'A.' Now clearly I did not achieve a perfect score on the final, another long paper with all the trimmings. In actuality my high 'B+' was just barely tugged up the next rung by a low 'A-' on the final paper. While I appreciate the praise I received from my parents at their learning I achieved an 'A,' I can't help but think of the drawbacks of the system.

What it boils down to is if it's better to get more or less than you deserve. In the first example, getting less than I merited motivated me into inaction, while in the second case I genuinely exerted energy into my work and was given excessive credit.

In my opinion I'd rather be bestowed that which I achieved than given inaccurate final assessments. I'm not bothered by lower high marks as much as I am higher low marks. Make sense?

What I'm saying is if I worked hard and got a 'C+' or a 'B+', I wouldn't mind having that show up on my grades. I'm not as upset by an 'A-' or a 'B-' as I am by getting shafted by the system rounding down my grade.

Besides, since when is an 'A-' or 'B-' bad? While it's certainly nice to have said that I got an 'A' in the earlier second example, if my parents saw that I had gotten an 'A-', they still would congratulate me for getting an 'A' in the class. Contrast this with the 'B' I got in the first example. If that was a 'B+' my parents would have praised me for doing well and given me that slight nudge to work harder and pull the A next semester.

The University needs to take a serious look at the way they report grades. The current system is a disingenuous reflection of the time, energy and work students put into their academics. While on some occasions it works to the students' benefit, it generally endorses a justifiable half-hearted effort on the students' part in the classroom.

Send responses to Greg at thenews@bgnews.com.

TOMORROW IN FORUM

Columns from Levi Joseph Wonder, Sean Martin and Sean Lutzmann.

Schedule subject to change.

The textbook that isn't



BRIAN KUTZLEY
COLUMNIST

"College should be a time of personal exploration and broadening of horizons."

Sound familiar? Sound bytes like that are used by professors and students to justify course material that pushes the limits of contention — and sometimes outright crosses it.

When buying books, I noticed that a 300-level psychology course had assigned Richard Dawkins' "The God Delusion." Now, I'm not in that class, so I don't know if the professor offers counterpoints for this polemic, but the class is supposed to be about genetics and culture.

Also, as much as I wanted to write about this laughable, albeit alarming, reading assignment immediately, I figured I should read the book myself before passing judgment. I'm currently about half way through, but I'm pretty sure I've figured out the predominant themes.

The first thing I should point out is that parts of this book are legitimately interesting. So who knows, maybe the professor only assigns readings from those parts. However, I question the validity of the entire book having read further.

Dawkins' primary thesis is that God, like every other formerly unapproachable posit — such as the composition of the sun — can and should be considered on a scientific basis. He then spends a few chapters discussing all the standard defenses of God, explaining why he disbelieves in them.

The next section discusses his alternative. Obviously any book attempting to refute God must discuss cosmology — what's out there and how did it come to pass?

Using an imaginative combination of Darwinian evolution and the anthropic principle, Dawkins attempts to create the world without relying on any form of design. (The anthropic principle is an odd circular response to the question: "How did humans, a statistical impossibility, occur by chance?" Which, in turn, argues that we could not be arguing said point unless said impossibility occurred.)

Honestly, my favorite part, so far, is when he attempts to explain the beginning of it all. This involved pages of obscure theories about multiverses, cycling realities and — my personal favorite — the hereditary universe.

I suspect that Dawkins, having exhausted his "what

See **KUTZLEY** | Page 5

Our veterans, too easily forgotten



ZACH FRANKS
COLUMNIST

"The government that put my dad in harm's way is choosing to do so again by ignoring him."

For some of us, age 19 was a recent memory. Some are living it, some look forward to it and some have to think back a bit.

No matter what your case, most of us think of it as a time of transition from the halls of high school to the lectures of college, the floors of the factory, or quite simply, the days when we wondered what was next.

For those that chose to enlist, and especially for those that were chosen by the draft, that memory does not exist.

Regardless of the public opinion about any war, we must tip our caps to those who serve, have served and spent a part of their youth on a battlefield. Our government also needs to finally serve them the way they have served and continue to serve us.

When I was 19, I sat on the beaches of Cancun with my friends and thought there was no place I would rather be. But at 19, my father was sitting in the jungles of Vietnam, missing his friends and thinking that he would rather be anywhere else. My father became a man the second he stepped into that country. He wasn't given a choice of when to grow up, like most of us are.

My dad was drafted in 1968 and served in Vietnam as a helicopter door gunner until 1970.

His main objective was to draw fire and locate enemy positions. During his time in Vietnam, he was shot down three times, and like most soldiers, said goodbye to comrades too early.

When he returned home he tried to adjust and did well doing so. However, things have a tendency to catch up with people.

In the past 10 years, I have seen my father become a different person. He doesn't hide from loud noises, or look behind doors or see things that aren't there. He wants to be alone, doubts himself, has no energy, bad neck and back pain and usually doesn't hear you talk if you don't have his full attention.

Eventually, the Veterans Administration diagnosed him with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The government had no problem putting a small price tag on my father's mental health. More shame lies in the fact that they will not honor his physical claims.

You would think that it would be easy to tie the neck and back pain that has caused my father to see a chiropractor for 30 years to three helicopter crashes. It is also easy to see that sitting so close to a large engine for over a year would most likely cause you to have hearing problems at some point in your life.

The government that put my dad in harm's way is choosing to do so again by ignoring him. They do it to millions of veterans every day. They will continue to do it our current veterans, and our future veterans, until somebody steps up and gives these men and women what they deserve: comfort.

It seems to be an issue of some concerns every election, at least until the elections are over. Then, like every administration has done, it is put on the backburner as an issue to be addressed at a later date.

The time for overlooking our veterans needs to come to an end. After the discovery of the conditions at Walter Reed Hospital and Wade Park Veterans Hospital, located in Cleveland, it is more evident than ever that our government is not doing enough for our veterans.

Most people are so caught up in their own moral disputes over the current war that they forget to think about what happens to these young men and women when they return from foreign service.

Let us not make the same mistakes that were made over

See **FRANKS** | Page 5

THE BG NEWS

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The BG News Submission Policy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

are generally to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are generally longer pieces between 400 and 700 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area. Two submissions per month maximum.

POLICIES:

Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS

as an attachment to thenews@bgnews.com with the subject line marked "Letter to the Editor" or "Guest Column." All submissions are subject to review and editing for length and clarity before printing. The editor may change the headlines to submitted columns and letters at his or her discretion.

Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the view of **The BG News**.

The economy meets a monster



MWENDAH
MMAILUTHA
COLUMNIST

OK. We all now know that the United States economy is in deep — well, some — trouble. Increasingly convinced that a recession might be imminent, Congress has, in record time, passed an economic stimulus package while the Federal Reserve cut the interest rate by three-quarters of a percentage point; unheard of since 1982.

The Fed might actually cut the rates again in its policy meeting this week. Announcing the stimulus package, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said, "speed is of the essence." Indeed.

Time is critical to avoid, or at least mitigate, a calamitous recession. President Bush's last State of the Union might not be so much about the intractable war in Iraq and the search for the elusive mullahs, but mostly about the economy. Too bad it is winding up this way for Bush Jr. as it did for Bush Sr. in 1992. Smugly, the president says that the economy is "structurally sound." He might have to be called on that in the future.

On a global scale, a tanking U.S. economy is big trouble. Over the last decade or so, the phenomenal economic growth in Asia (mainly China and India) has led to conclusions that the global economic pivot could be shifting from the U.S. The European Union too has been experiencing steady, albeit slowed growth, amplified by the now very strong euro.

Meanwhile, there is the wider context of the BRICs — a group of four countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) that, due to an abundance of immense natural resources (Brazil, Russia); smart economic policies (India) and a strictly government-controlled, but strategically oriented, economic development (China), are thought to be the next big thing in the world economy.

The profound and fast economic growth in countries other than the U.S. has led some econ-

"The world is yet to debunk the saying that when the U.S. coughs, the world catches a cold."

omists to enthuse that the world economy can hum along just fine without cues or great influence from the U.S. Decoupling, it has been called. The reasoning has been that other major world economies (in Asia and Europe) have "decoupled" from the U.S. economy and that they can hold the world economy in equilibrium.

Right? Wrong, at least for now. As we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day, markets in Asia and Europe suddenly went on a wild swing. Investors were losing money across the world as stock indexes tumbled.

That was the tipping point, or rather appears to have been in retrospect. Last Tuesday, the Fed stepped to cut the interest rate again in what seemed to have been an emergency move to shore the market. Expectedly, everyone started wishing the monster that is now the subprime crisis was never born, or designed or what-have-you.

The subprime crisis, a now-not so beloved invention has spawned its own offspring called credit-squeeze. This has led to all this talk about an imminent recession, inflation and all the policy strategies coming out of Washington D.C.

Meanwhile, the rest of the world pants and raves and looks at the U.S. askance, wondering why of all things they decided to give the world something as crass as the subprime crisis. The disquiet all over the world as a result of the economic situation in the U.S. goes to show that the world has yet to debunk the saying that when the U.S. coughs, the world catches a cold.

Decoupling of other world economies might have been just overstated, or maybe, the U.S., the world's most powerful country, is not just about to relinquish the premier position of calling the shots in the world economy. Whatever the position is, the current U.S. cough might become

worse and the world might get a serious case of cold.

All things considered, these events again show just how connected the world has become. The interconnectivity and interdependence is on an onward march, kind of unstoppable. World economies are increasingly becoming tied to each other in unprecedented ways. It is one of the wonders of globalization and it is not just about to stop. It also shows that in the model of globalization, some nations will be more advantaged than others; some will, by necessity be the pace-makers and rule brokers, even breakers. Despite its shortcomings, the model has proved workable and has brought many countries, and their populations out of poverty.

And that is why the U.S. must always get it right, always from the start. As the world's super power, the U.S., has the moral prerogative (which seems to have been lost for now) to mitigate suffering across the world, to send the right signals; to construct appropriate social, economic and political milieus from which the entire world can learn and benefit from.

The policy strategies (economic stimulus package and Fed rate cuts) for dealing with the economic problem are not only important to the U.S., but also to the entire world. For some reason, the perception that the U.S. is not in its element in whatever respect depresses perception, hope and confidence across the world.

The world needs all the confidence and hope it can muster at this time to deal with, not only conventional issues (socio-economic inequities, education, and poverty) but also contemporary ones like terrorism and cynicism!

Meanwhile, even if it might seem like we are in a hole and that someone is still digging at the bottom, things will look up. The recession might hit hard, or not so hard; we might experience debilitating inflationary pressures and

KUTZLEY

From Page 4

if" repertoire, realized this abject failure to explain cosmology would count pretty strongly against him, and fled back to more familiar ground: attacking others.

I'll end the book review by simply saying Dawkins should not be considered a scientist. He begins with a fairly rational method, but quickly degenerates into baseless and pointless assaults against Christianity and the premise of a higher being. Ironically, I do recommend this book to all Christians, as it offers equal parts intrigue and humor for a critical reader.

The tragedy is that it's meant as a serious work. Coincidentally, I believe Dawkins' publisher even feared for this book, as he fills up four pages with glowing reviews by obscure persons and publications.

I say all that to say this: Why is this book reading material

"Personally, I believe this is an abuse of power by the professor akin to a physics professor listing 'The Purpose Driven Life' as required reading."

for a class on the psychology of genetics?

Granted, Dawkins does discuss Darwinian natural selection, but that can be accomplished at a lower price tag in more accredited sources. Personally, I believe this is an abuse of power by the professor akin to a physics professor listing "The Purpose Driven Life" as required reading.

I know that someone will be offended by that statement. They will argue that restricting what a professor can assign and discuss hampers creative learning and expression, or that I attack this particular instance only because of my personal faith.

But if that hypothetical physics professor — the one assigning religious texts — actually exists, those same individuals would be on the front lines, protesting. We have this idea that learning is not just about memorizing and regurgitating facts, but about learning to think for oneself. I'd like to be the first to call foul on this ridiculous simplification.

Like anything else, the human brain operates by the JIJO principle: Junk In. Junk Out. Yes, professors should expect their students to be able to understand the significance of course material and think about it critically, but their relations are only as valuable as the information they're given.

Classroom material can and should be monitored, if not by the departments than by the students themselves. Challenge professors who assign material or forward ideas that their background and the course description leaves them unqualified to discuss and the students ill-equipped to resist. After all, what does the JIJO principle imply if your input is a polemic manipulator like Dawkins?

Post Script: I have not taken the course in question, nor met the professor. As mentioned, he or she might be an intelligent and fair individual. The book, however, is still laughable.

Respond to Brian at
theneus@bgnews.com.

FRANKS

From Page 4

30 years ago. With suicide rates of military personnel soaring to new heights, and veterans making up one-quarter of the homeless population, it is easy to see that something is wrong within the borders of the United States.

The question we must now ask is, who is going to do something and what is it going to take to fix it? If the U.S. wants to fix somebody else's problems, shouldn't we get a grasp on our own?

Send responses to Zach to
theneus@bgnews.com.

the labor market may just get distorted (students, especially those graduating this year should take note!), however, all will be well...if not sooner, then in 51 weeks or so.

Respond to Mwendah at
theneus@bgnews.com.

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More teachers referred for possible misconduct

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The number of teachers referred to the state for possible misconduct jumped 30 percent from 2005 to 2007.

The increase in referrals "doesn't mean there are more teachers involved in misconduct," Education Department spokeswoman Karla Camruthers said. "It just means we're hearing about more cases, which is evidence that the law is working."

ACLU seeks to block paper voting system

CLEVELAND (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio asked a federal judge to block the March 4 presidential primary in Ohio's biggest county if a switch is made to a paper ballot voting system that doesn't allow voters to correct errors.

Judge Kathleen O'Malley set a deadline of Feb. 4 for the Ohio secretary of state and the elections board to respond to the ACLU request and a Feb. 5 hearing.

Head Start accused of number fraud

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A Cleveland-based Head Start provider accepted more than \$75 million in state education funding for hundreds of preschool children it did not serve, according to an audit released yesterday.

State Auditor Mary Taylor said false numbers were the result of children enrolled but not attending, children listed who were too old to qualify, and names included twice.

Ministerial Day Care officials have denied the accusations and sued the education department.

Jury selection for microwave baby case begins

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Prosecutors and defense attorneys quizzed potential jurors in the trial of China Arnold, a woman accused of killing her newborn by burning her in a microwave in August 2005.

Each of the potential jurors questioned said they had heard about the case, but they could be impartial.

Arnold has pleaded not guilty to aggravated murder. If convicted, she could face the death penalty.

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus to support Obama

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus yesterday announced it would support Sen. Barack Obama for president and help him in the state's Democratic primary.

The caucus said it would provide volunteers and fundraising assistance. It believes Obama's quest to become the nation's first black president is in line with its mission to improve opportunities for minorities.

Detroit mayor's chief of staff to resign after affair allegations

By David Runk
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's chief of staff said yesterday she is resigning amid allegations that she and the mayor lied under oath about an affair.

In a letter to Kilpatrick that was released by his office, Christine Beatty said she believes she can no longer effectively carry out her duties. Her resignation takes effect Feb. 8.

"I painfully regret the devastation that the recent reports have caused to the citizens of Detroit, to my co-workers, to the Mayor's family and to my family and friends," Beatty wrote in the letter.

Kilpatrick spokesman James Canning said the mayor's office had no comment.

There was no immediate response to messages seeking comment from Elliott Hall, a lawyer for Beatty.

A prosecutor launched an investigation last week into the allegations, which came

to light when the Detroit Free Press reported details of steamy text messages between Beatty and Kilpatrick.

A conviction of lying under oath can bring up to 15 years' imprisonment.

Both Kilpatrick and Beatty testified in a trial last summer that they did not have a physical relationship in 2002 and 2003, when the messages were reportedly sent. The 14,000 messages examined by the newspaper reveal the two carried on a flirty, sometimes sexually explicit dialogue about where to meet and how to conceal their numerous trysts.

"I'm madly in love with you," Kilpatrick wrote on Oct. 3, 2002.

"I hope you feel that way for a long time," Beatty replied. "In case you haven't noticed, I am madly in love with you, too!"

On Oct. 16, 2002, Kilpatrick wrote Beatty: "I've been dreaming all day about having you all to myself for 3 days. Relaxing, laughing, talking, sleeping and making love."

Kilpatrick is married with three children. Beatty was married at the time of the messages and has two children. She has served as the Kilpatrick administration's chief of staff since the mayor took office in 2002.

The two, both 37, have been friends since they attended the same Detroit high school. Kilpatrick also appointed Beatty as his chief of staff when he became state House minority leader in 1999.



LEAVING OFFICE: Beatty said she will resign amid allegations of an affair with the mayor.

Couple charged with stealing millions in November

By Joe Milicia
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — A couple admitted to stealing millions of dollars from an armored car company to escape financial hardships and find a better life, according to documents read in federal court yesterday.

FBI special agent Guy Hunneyman read the statements, made by Roger Dillon

and Nicole Boyd, during a bond hearing in U.S. District Court.

Dillon, 23, and Boyd, 25, both of Youngstown, are charged with bank larceny and other charges in the heist from AT Systems in Liberty, just north of Youngstown. They face up to 25 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted. They have no prior criminal records.

The amount stolen was just

"I knew taking the money from AT Systems was wrong, but I wanted a better life."

Nicole Boyd | Suspect

under \$8.4 million, including \$6.7 million in cash and the rest in checks. Federal authorities until yesterday had reported the theft at a total of \$7.4

million, including \$4.3 million in cash.

The couple's motive was to escape financial hardship, including a debt of thou-

sands of dollars, Boyd said in her statement.

"I knew taking the money from AT Systems was wrong, but I wanted a better life," Hunneyman read from Boyd's written statement, which she signed Dec. 1.

All but \$3,500 was recovered, Hunneyman said. The cash and checks were found stacked in a mobile home where the couple fled about 250 miles

away in Pipestem, W.Va.

Dillon had worked as a driver at the company for about nine months.

On the night of Nov. 26, when the armored car company had cash from the busy post-Thanksgiving holiday shopping weekend in the region's stores, someone entered the building using another employee's security code and rearmed the system 24 minutes later.

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SIDELINES



GOLF

Recent history shows Tiger Woods owns Torrey Pines

After dominating the field and winning last weekend's Buick Invitational at Torrey Pines by eight shots, Tiger Woods could have similar success at the same course this June at the U.S. Open.

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ONLINE

The BG News Sports Blog

Make sure to pay a visit to The BG News Sports Blog to get updates and inside information on all of your favorite BG teams. Also, check out the blog for live game updates during hockey and men's and women's basketball games this season.

<http://www.bgnewssports.blogspot.com>

OUR CALL

Today in Sports History

1989— "Game-winning RBI," an official MLB statistic, is dropped after nine years of use.

1988— An NBA record of 61,938 fans attend a Boston Celtics vs. Detroit Pistons game.

1982— In women's college basketball, Old Dominion ends Louisiana Tech's record 54-game winning streak.

1948— MLB Commissioner Happy Chandler fines the Yankees, Cubs and Phillies \$500 each for signing high school players.

1904— The first athletic letters are given out (University of Chicago football team).

The List

There are some angry NBA fans out there right now because Allen Iverson was voted to start for the Western Conference All-Stars ahead of Steve Nash. Today, we're listing five reasons why that's a good thing.

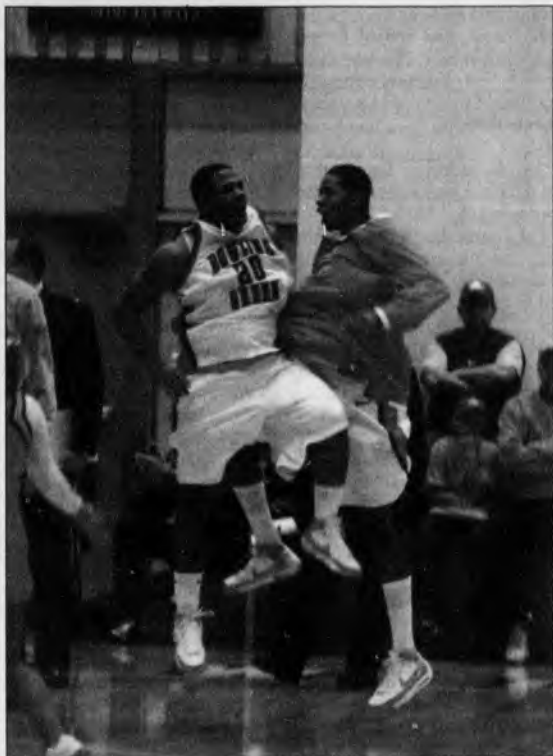
1. Overall coolness: No offense to Nash, but he's kind of a square. A.I. is more flashy on the court and really pioneered the sleeve pad on one arm look.

2. The shoes: Iverson has had commercials in the past for his own line of Reebok shoes. Nash hasn't.

3. The games: Iverson's been featured on the cover of several Sega Dreamcast basketball games. Nash may have never even received a phone call about the subject.

4. Other sports talents: As Youtube will show, A.I. was an incredible football player in high school. Nash can't claim that.

5. Suns over-hype: They get picked to win the title every year despite a lack of defense and post game.



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

FUN TIMES ARE HERE AGAIN: The men's basketball team defeated Miami and Northern Illinois last week. They're currently tied for second-place in the MAC East at 4-2.



SCOTT RECKER | THE BG NEWS

OUT OF SORTS: The women's team suffered two tough losses last week. At 4-2, they're tied for first-place in the MAC East. The Falcons will look to get back on track starting Wednesday night at Anderson Arena against Western Michigan.

Falcons in a role reversal

Men's and women's basketball teams experience 2-0, 0-2 weeks

By Bill Bordewick
Assistant Sports Editor

A year ago it would not be uncommon for one BG basketball team to be coming off an undefeated week and the other team to be completely defeated.

Would you have guessed, however, that the undefeated team would not be the one that advanced all the way to the Sweet 16 last season?

Yes, the undefeated team is the men, who are coming off a three-win Mid-American Conference season, and not the women, who have won three consecu-

tive MAC Championships.

The men's team just polished off two victories over Miami and Northern Illinois while the women's team just finished off suffering a home loss to Miami and then went on the road and got routed at Ball State.

The men's team is coming off a season where their three conference wins were good for last place in the conference. They have turned it around this season and already have four victories with 10 games remaining.

The women, on the other hand, had not lost consecutive MAC games in over four years.

"We're not going to panic — over the last 50 MAC games, we're 47-3," said BG women's coach Curt Miller. "We've lost two in a row, so before that, we were 47-1."

Before this past week, the women were winning MAC games at a 97 percent clip — yes you read that right, 97 percent.

The last time the men were coming off two victories and the women were coming off two losses this late in the season was February 2004.

The men had just bested Northern Illinois and Youngstown State while the

women had been defeated by Northern Illinois and Kent State.

"In college basketball, wins are hard to come by — we've got to earn everything," said BG men's guard Joe Jakubowski. "There's no givens — getting to .500 and 4-2 in the MAC is great for us."

This week has been a testament to how quickly things have changed in the MAC. The women were rolling right along after just beating Buffalo while the men had just suffered a 36-point loss at the hands of Akron.

See **REVERSE** | Page 8

Falcon notes:

Last week

Long time since: The BG women's basketball team lost back-to-back MAC games for the first time since 2004.

Positive upswing: With their win over Northern Illinois Sunday, the men's basketball team is 4-2 in MAC play and is in a three-way tie for second-place in the East Division.

Standings: Both teams now have 4-2 MAC records

Tennis team focuses, cruises to back-to-back shutouts over weekend

By Nate Parsons
Reporter

Focused.

That was the word coach Penny Dean used to describe the BG tennis team's performance over the past weekend.

After cruising to back-to-back 7-0 shutouts of Youngstown State University and Wright State University, the Falcons don't need to get an eye exam anytime soon — they are seeing 20/20, or wins in this case.

"We're coming out so ready to play and just kind of taking it to the opponents," Dean said.

"We're not giving them [opponents] a chance from the start of the match."

BG — 3-0 in dual-match play — took two of three doubles matches and all six singles matches against Youngstown State Saturday afternoon at Shadow Valley Tennis Club in Toledo.

The duo of Christine Chiricosta and Kelsey Jakupcin defeated Volkova/Thayer, 8-4, in top-flight action, while the tandem of Katia Babina and Sam Kintzel defeated Lanc/Patten, 8-3, to help win the doubles point for the Falcons.

In singles play, Jakupcin defeated Volkova — whom she had lost to earlier in the season at the BGSU Invitational — 6-2, 6-0, in top-flight action. Chiricosta didn't lose a single game in her second flight match against the Penguins' Welch.

The rest of the Falcons — Kintzel, Babina, Jenna Nussbaum and Stefanie Menoff — defeated their opponents in straight sets.

The only loss of the day for the Falcons was an 8-2 doubles loss by the duo of senior co-captains Nussbaum and Andrea Volle.

It was more of the same for BG against Wright State on Sunday at Shadow Valley.



BG NEWS FILE PHOTO

YOU GOT SERVED: The BG tennis team won both of their weekend matches.

The Falcons won all three doubles matches and all six singles matches against the Raiders.

The BG duo of Chiricosta/Jakupcin continued to impress by beating Lee/Webb, 8-1, in the top flight. The tandems of Nussbaum/Volle and Babina/Menoff contributed to the sweep of the Raiders after winning 8-5 and 8-0, respectively.

Wright State proved to be no match for the Falcons winning no more than two games in any set.

Jakupcin got her third straight victory in top-flight action after beating Lee, 6-2, 6-1.

"She's taken over that No. 1 spot and playing lights-out from the start

"We're coming out so ready to play and just kind of taking it to the opponents. We're not giving [opponents] a chance from the start of the match."

Penny Dean | BG tennis coach

of the match," coach Dean said. Chiricosta and Kintzel each had 6-0, 6-1 victories in the second and third flights, respectively. Rounding out the Falcons' singles wins were Nussbaum, Volle and Libby Harrison.

The Falcons have some time to relax and enjoy their early season success as they are off until Feb. 9, when they play UIC at Shadow Valley.

Success on the courts: BG tennis

- BG's 10-0 all-time in series vs. Youngstown State
- They're also 19-0 all-time vs. Wright State
- The Falcons have won 10 consecutive matches at Toledo's Shadow Valley and are 24-1 over the last three years
- With four wins over the weekend, Kelsey Jakupcin moved into a tie for 18th place on the BG all-time records list for combined wins with 87

Red Wings, NHL gearing up for season's stretch run



GERRY BROOME | AP PHOTO

ROOM TO BREATHE: Right now, goalie Chris Osgood (right) and the Detroit Red Wings are the only team in the NHL guaranteed to make the playoffs.

By Ira Podell
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Unless you are the Detroit Red Wings, there is plenty of work to be done just to get into the NHL playoffs before thoughts drift to making a run for the Stanley Cup.

As hockey returns today from its four-day All-Star break, teams will be gearing up for the stretch drive that has a little more than 30 games left per club. Parity is prevailing, and virtually no one is out of the running.

The only team that is truly safe is Detroit, which has a 22-point lead in the Central Division, a 17-point edge in the Western Conference, and a 12-point cushion in the chase for the Presidents' Trophy and home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs.

Finishing on top doesn't ensure postseason success, however.

Just ask the Buffalo Sabres, who stormed through the Eastern Conference a year ago but were knocked out in the semifinals by the Ottawa Senators.

"Being first in your conference and playing the eighth seed, you have nothing to win really," Senators captain Daniel Alfredsson said. "If you lose in the first round, you're a dog. That's probably the toughest round."

"Detroit is running away with their conference, for sure, and probably the Presidents' Trophy. Do they have much to play for down the stretch? You can find pros and cons with pretty much everything."

The Red Wings were eliminated a step away from the finals last year by eventual champion Anaheim after finishing tied with

See **NHL** | Page 8

Woods' win could be U.S. Open preview

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Tiger Woods began his 2008 season with a 67 on the South Course at Torrey Pines that featured only one bogey, one birdie on the par 5s and seemingly very little effort.

Standing behind the 18th green, one caddie made a quiet observation that surely was shared by others.

"He just won two tournaments with one round," the caddie said.

Woods left the Buick Invitational with only one trophy, but his eight-shot victory left some wondering if the U.S. Open would be the same kind of contest in June — which would be no contest at all.

He most likely will not compete again in California until June, when Woods will try for the second time this decade to win a U.S. Open on the same course where he earlier won a PGA Tour event.

But this is different from Pebble Beach.

Eight years ago, Woods won the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am with his most exciting comeback, rallying from seven shots behind with seven holes to play to overcome a faltering Matt Gogel. He won the U.S. Open four months later with a performance that might never be repeated, winning by 15 shots, playing the final 26 holes without a bogey.

Those are his only two victories at Pebble as a pro.

Torrey Pines is a public golf course that appears to have private ownership. Woods has won six times on the cliffside course, which includes four straight titles at the Buick Invitational. The only other PGA Tour course where he has won that often is Firestone.

"I feel very comfortable here," Woods said. "I can read the greens. Even though they're a little bouncy, I can still read them, and I read



CHRIS PARK | AP PHOTO

THE MAN: Tiger Woods celebrates after an 11th-hole birdie during the Buick Invitational.

"I feel very comfortable here. I can read the greens. Even though they're a little bouncy, I can still read them, and I read them well."

Tiger Woods | Golfer

them well. It's just one of those things where some people just have an affinity for certain golf courses. And somehow, this golf course seems to have been pretty good for me."

Woods has said the calendar Grand Slam is "easily within reason," and it's hard to doubt him. The rotation of courses — Augusta National, Torrey Pines, Royal Birkdale and Oakland Hills — would appear to be in his favor, and Paul Goydos thinks that might be overrated.

"I don't think that the rotation

is going to make a difference with his talent," Goydos said.

Maybe not, but Torrey Pines certainly will help.

Even though he already has 13 majors, the U.S. Open is the one that has given Woods the most trouble. He has the fewest victories (two) of any major. He has finished out of the top 10 six times, far more than the others. And the U.S. Open is the only major where Woods has missed the cut.

But if he wasn't already the favorite at this year's U.S. Open, his victory Sunday only made him

look more like a lock. Woods went 44 holes without a bogey, built an 11-shot lead midway through the final round, and settled for an eight-shot victory. The last three times he has played, including his unofficial Target World Challenge, Woods has won by a combined 23 shots.

Woods, however, knows that Torrey Pines won't be the same course in June.

The course was soft from rain and a late January chill, so on the occasions that Woods found himself in the rough or behind trees, he could rely on receptive greens to get out of trouble. His biggest concern was spinning the ball too much with even a 6-iron. That won't happen in June. And even with the trophy at his side, Woods could not see how winning in January will help him in June.

"Two totally different sites," he said.

No one is sure what to expect at the U.S. Open, which will play as a par 71.

Woods' caddie, Steve Williams, was looking for a sprinkler that he normally sees on the right side of the sixth fairway. He finally found it covered by clumpy grass in the rough. The fairways might not be much more narrow, although they figure to be firm and fast and harder to hold. Shots that spun back on the green are more likely to spring forward.

The hope by some was that the USGA wasn't watching when Woods shot 19-under 269 on a course that four months from now will be hosting the "toughest test in golf," where the winning score the last two years has been 5-over 285.

"What he's going to do is screw the U.S. Open up for everyone else," Fred Couples said. "If he had shot 10 or 11 under, the USGA would have said, 'Well, maybe we have it in the right spot.' Now, they may have to regroup a little."

REVERSE

From Page 7

Now the women's young players are going through the process of having a bulls-eye on their backs — even though most players currently on the team were not around when the juniors and seniors of yesterday were admonishing nightly beat-downs of everyone in the MAC.

The freshmen and sophomores are now facing very motivated junior and senior laden squads who want to do nothing but beat the tar out of everything BG — no matter who is on the team.

"Everyone is going to play us tough," said BG women's guard Kate Achter. "They want to beat Bowling Green period, and it's really hard to convey that message to 10 underclassmen that really haven't had to experience that much in their careers."

Meanwhile on the men's side, the young players who have struggled over the past couple seasons have grown up, and the winning record in conference play is evidence to that.

The team has also had to transition from Dan Dakich's coaching philosophy to Louis Orr's philosophy.

"You're going to go through some ups and downs—and you've got to grow from them."

Louis Orr | Coach

Orr has brought a defensive tenacity to the men's team. The offense has been a slow process, but the foundation may be starting to take place.

"You're going to go through some ups and downs — and you've got to grow from them," Orr said. "We lost some close games for whatever reason early, and we learned from them. The more success you have, the more it builds your confidence."

One would like to believe that this past week was just a blip on the radar for the women and sign of good things to come for the men, but no one knows for sure.

This is MAC basketball after all, and anything is possible in this conference — even if that means a team will win 47 out of 48 games and then proceed to lose their next two games.

NHL

From Page 7

Buffalo for first in the NHL's overall standings.

The Presidents' Trophy winner hasn't captured the Cup since 2002 when Detroit did it. The Red Wings flamed out twice in the previous three seasons after finishing with the best record in the NHL.

"Yeah, there's no guarantees — having a good regular season to then play well in the playoffs," Red Wings captain Nicklas Lidstrom said. "We as a team try to do whatever we can to prepare ourselves for the playoffs to have a good playoff run again."

"It starts in the regular season. You can't just turn a switch on once the playoffs start and expect to play well. You have to play well going into the playoffs."

The next biggest division lead is in the Northeast, where Ottawa is six points ahead of surprising Montreal.

There are two tied divisional

racers, and another where first and second place are separated by one skinny point. New York's Islanders and Rangers are tied for eighth — the post-season cutoff — in the Eastern Conference, 12 points below Ottawa but only nine in front of last-place Tampa Bay.

"It is hectic," Philadelphia forward Mike Richards said. "Every game counts. I looked at our schedule and we play our last five or six games against our division opponents. Coming down the stretch here, every game is going to be so important."

Tell that to Pittsburgh, which is a point out of first in the Atlantic, but facing the prospect of being without defending scoring champion Sidney Crosby for several weeks due to his high ankle sprain.

Behind Detroit in the West the race is tight throughout. The Dallas Stars and San Jose Sharks are tied in points atop the Pacific Division but only five ahead of the eighth-place deadlock between Colorado and Columbus.

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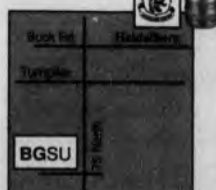
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KARIM KADIM | AP PHOTO

MOURNING: An Iraqi man gestures next to a coffin in Baghdad, Iraq yesterday. The coffin was on top of a minibus for a funeral ceremony when a roadside bomb missed a police patrol in but hit the minibus, killing three and injuring five others.

Roadside bomb kills 5 near Mosul

By Kim Gamel
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — In a daring ambush, insurgents blasted a U.S. patrol with a roadside bomb yesterday and showered survivors with gunfire from a mosque in increasingly lawless Mosul. Five American soldiers were killed in the explosion — even as Iraqi troops moved into the northern city to challenge al-Qaida in Iraq.

Iraqi reinforcements, along with helicopters, tanks and armored vehicles, converged on Mosul for what Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pledged would be a decisive battle against al-Qaida in its last major urban stronghold.

The attack on the U.S. patrol — the deadliest on American forces since six soldiers perished Jan. 9 in a booby-trapped house north of Baghdad — raised the Pentagon's January death count to at least 36.

The toll so far is 56 percent higher than December's 23 U.S. military deaths and marks the first monthly increase since August. But the figures remain well below monthly death tolls of more than 100 last spring.

Tensions in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, have spiked after the explosion last week in an abandoned apartment that authorities say was used to stash insurgents' weapons

and bombs. As many as 60 were killed and 200 injured.

The attackers yesterday struck in Mosul's southeastern Sumar neighborhood, a middle-class district popular with former officers in Saddam Hussein's military and now a suspected hotbed for the insurgency.

After the roadside bomb blew apart the American vehicle — killing the five soldiers — gunmen opened fire from a mosque. A fierce gunbattle erupted as U.S. and Iraqi soldiers secured the area, the military said. Iraqi troops entered the mosque but the insurgents had already fled, according to a statement.

"The insurgents are willing to desecrate a place of worship by using it to attack soldiers to further their agenda," said Maj. Peggy Kageleiry, a U.S. military spokeswoman in northern Iraq.

There was other fighting in the neighborhood. An Iraqi officer, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information, said three civilians were wounded and helicopters bombarded buildings in the district, the scene of frequent attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Also yesterday, insurgents attacked four policemen heading home from work south of Mosul, killing two and wounding the other two. Nineveh provincial police said.

Armed Kenyan youth riot as death toll reaches 800

By Katherine Houereld
The Associated Press

KISUMU, Kenya — Thousands of machete-wielding youths hunted down members of President Mwai Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe yesterday in western Kenya's Rift Valley, torching homes and buses, clashing with police, and blocking roads with burning tires.

Witnesses described seeing two people pulled from cars and stoned to death, while another was burned alive in a minibus — the latest victims of a month of escalating violence triggered by a disputed presidential election. The death toll has soared over 800.

Kibaki has said he is open to direct talks with opposition leader Raila Odinga, who is from the Luo tribe, but that his position as president is not negotiable. Odinga says Kibaki must step down and only new elections will bring peace.

"The road is covered in blood.

It's chaos. Luos are hunting Kikuyus for revenge," said Baraka Karama, a journalist for independent Kenya Television in Kisumu.

There was no sign of relief from international mediators trying to persuade politicians to resolve the crisis that has erupted over Kibaki's re-election in Dec. 27 balloting that international and local observers say was marred by a rigged vote tally.

Kibaki has said he is open to direct talks with opposition leader Raila Odinga, but that his position as president is not negotiable. Odinga says Kibaki must step down and only new elections will bring peace.

Columns of smoke rose from burning homes in Kisumu, according to journalists who flew into the town.

"We wish to find one, a Kikuyu. ...We will butcher them like a cow," said David Babgy, 24, who was among 50 young men stopping buses at a roadblock of burned cars and uprooted lamp posts.



LEFTERIS PITRAKIS | AP PHOTO

TRAFFIC JAM: Palestinians cross the damaged border wall between Egypt and Rafah.

Palestinian security forces join Egyptian guards to police border

By Omar Sinan
The Associated Press

RAFAH, Egypt — A smattering of Hamas-affiliated security forces, many of them bearded and dressed in blue camouflage uniforms, fanned out on both sides of the breached Gaza-Egypt border Sunday to jointly police the crossing with Egyptian guards.

Though only about a dozen Hamas forces took up positions, it was their first significant action on the Egyptian side of the border in the five days since Palestinian militants blasted through the partition. Since then, tens of thousands of Gazans have flooded into Egypt to buy food, fuel and other goods made scarce by an Israeli closure of the territory.

Hamas won Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006, and forcibly seized control of Gaza from the rival Fatah faction in June. But the Islamic militant

group had no role in controlling Gaza's border crossings before the breach on Wednesday.

Now, Hamas is hoping to change that.

The temporary cooperation appeared to be between low-level security guards on the ground, and not indicative of any change in policy by Hamas or the Egyptian government, which are still far apart on the question of future control of the border.

Egypt wants to restore an arrangement whereby the border was controlled jointly by the Palestinian Authority headed by Fatah, Israel, and European monitors. Hamas rejects the old system and is pushing for a new one where it has a role.

THE BG NEWS SUDOKU

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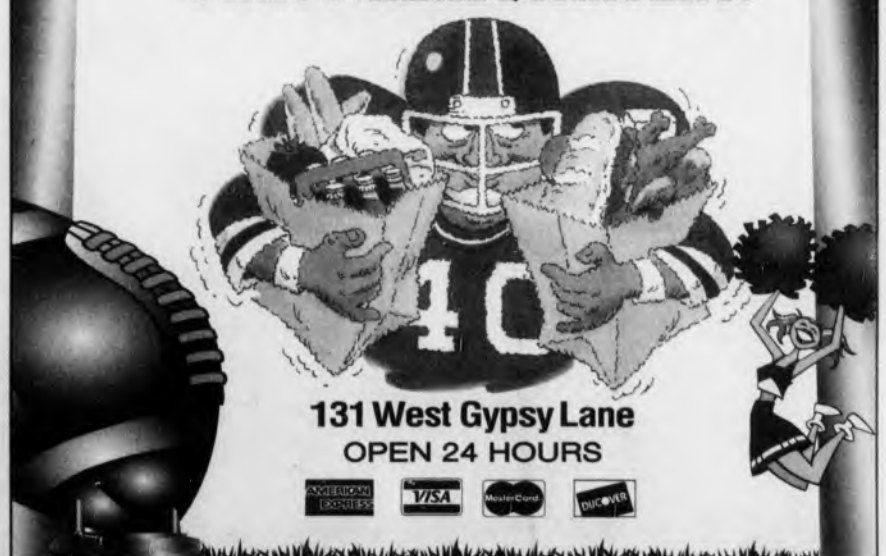


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New York could join other states in proposed illegal drug tax



MIKE GROLL | AP PHOTO

DRINK UP: New York is also proposing to redefine "hard" lemonade and other flavored alcoholic drinks as liquor for tax purposes.

By Michael Gormley
The Associated Press

ALBANY — It's the perfect tax: Government exacts a big payment without having to fend off lobbyists or wage a political fight. And in most cases, the taxpayer doesn't even have a say.

That's the allure of New York's proposal to tax illegal drugs, just one of the innovative — and sometimes odd — ways states are trying to raise revenue in these increasingly gloomy economic times.

Politicians love to use such methods because they don't have to raise income taxes. But critics say that's also the danger, if long-term problems never get fixed and essentials such as health care and education go wanting.

Need a few million dollars to fill a budget deficit? Lease a toll highway, like Indiana and Virginia did; or lease toll bridges as in Alabama; or cash in on future lottery profits as a half-dozen states are considering. You could slap a tax on pornography as six states already have, or tax strip joints like they do in Texas, where they call it a "pole tax."

Some states take a slice out of pumpkin sales at Halloween.

And most states tax Shaquille O'Neal and Barry Bonds when they visit, using a "jock tax" on professional athletic events.

Amused? That will cost you, too. Many states collect an amusement tax for live performances.

"They range from the outright crazy to the absolutely insane," said Nate Bailey, of the non-partisan Tax Foundation based in Washington. "People at the local level already feel overtaxed and politicians, in a somewhat spineless way, look for a hidden way to increase revenue without raising taxes."

In New York, Gov. Eliot Spitzer last week proposed redefining little cigars as cigarettes and "hard" lemonade and other flavored alcohol drinks as liquor instead of beer, all of which would increase tax revenue.

More than a half-dozen states have a tax on narcotics and other controlled substances. Theoretically, a drug dealer in North Carolina can go to the state revenue office and get a tax stamp for \$50 per gram for cocaine over 7 grams (the first 6 grams are tax-free). A moonshiner could get a stamp for \$1.28 per gallon of mash.

Then the dealer or the moonshiner can walk away — the law prohibits snitching on anyone who buys the stamps — with proof he paid his debt to the tax department.

The idea is that a peddler, even one who sells illegal substances, should pay taxes. But in reality the revenue is only collected after arrests, when dealers are slapped with a tax bill.

"The only folks we have buying those stamps are stamp collectors," said Kim Brooks, spokeswoman for the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

In his budget proposal to the Legislature last week, he promised \$17 million in revenue from it. He also wants to require Internet giants such as Amazon.com to collect tax on an estimated \$47 million in sales to New Yorkers, who are currently on an honor system to report on their tax returns how much they spend online.

A few states such as Maryland still raise money the old-fashioned way — by increasing broad-based taxes. Maryland raised taxes by \$1.4 billion in November, but it is also considering legalizing slot machines to pay for health care.

Clinton denounces Bush for lack of concern

By Mike Glover
The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Hillary Rodham Clinton relegated her chief Democratic rival to the rhetorical sidelines yesterday and focused her criticism on President Bush, saying he had lost touch with the concerns of an anxious public.

In a speech to more than 1,000 people jammed in a gymnasium, Clinton did not refer to the fight with Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination. Her audience, which included an equal number listening in an adjoining room, roared with approval when the former first lady took note of the Republican president's dwindling time in office.

"Tonight is a red-letter night in American history," she said. "It is the last time George Bush will give the State of the Union. Next year it will be a Democratic president giving it."

Bush is isolated at the White House, Clinton said, inviting the president to join her in meeting the kind of people she has come

across during her campaign. "Sit at tables at diners and hear what's on America's mind," she suggested.

The competition between Clinton and Obama has grown increasingly testy heading into next week's enormous round of primaries. But at least on this day, Clinton took on Bush, using the State of the Union address to highlight her differences with the commander in chief.

Bush is certain, she said, to assert that the state of the nation is strong even though "we are sliding into a recession. We have as lot of concerns we need to deal with," including a mortgage crisis that is driving people from their homes.

In Clinton's estimation, Bush "has never understood that the State of the Union is not about a speech in Washington. It is about the lives of the American people who feel they are moving toward the American dream."

Before returning to Capitol Hill, she sounded the same theme before 2,000 cheering supporters at Springfield College in Massachusetts.



ELISE AMENDOLA | AP PHOTO

THE AMERICAN DREAM: Clinton criticizes Bush for not being concerned enough for the public.

Romney, McCain Battle for Florida's Vote

By Liz Sidoti
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Mitt Romney and John McCain are in an increasingly bitter and personal struggle to control the campaign conversation before Florida's primary today — and the Republican presidential nomination itself may go to the one who succeeds.

Romney, the former Massachusetts governor and venture capitalist, casts himself as a business-savvy economic turnaround artist amid recession anxiety, while McCain, the Arizona senator and former prisoner of war in Vietnam, portrays himself as a courageous wartime commander in chief in



GERALD HERBERT | AP PHOTO

BATTLING IT OUT IN THE SUNSHINE STATE: The primaries have difficulty in controlling the conversation flow in Florida.

a dangerous world.

"He has an enormous disadvantage when it comes to the topics of changing Washington or fixing our economy," Romney said Sunday, arguing that he

is far stronger than McCain on both issues.

Countered McCain: "Even if the economy is the, quote, No. 1 issue, the real issue will remain America's security" — and, unlike him, Romney is deficient in that area.

The two leaders for the Republican nomination essentially are beginning their national arguments here, ahead of a virtual national primary on Feb. 5. They are giving rank-and-file GOP voters a choice between what have historically been the party's two most important issues — the economy and national security. That's not an easy decision for many Republicans.

Rudy Giuliani, the former New York mayor trying to salvage his candidacy, has been arguing that he offers a perfect combination — strength on the economy and on security — and is hoping to benefit from their squabbling. "Senator McCain and Governor Romney are doing such a good job of attacking each other, how about voting for somebody who's not attacking? Vote for me, Rudy Giuliani," he said in Cocoa Beach, Fla.

In the past month, the economy has replaced national security as the top concern among Republican voters as financial market turmoil and a housing crisis prompted President Bush to push an economic stimulus package to prevent a recession.

The shift works in Romney's favor and against McCain.

So, Romney has spent the past week promoting his private sector credentials and arguing that McCain, who has served the country in the military and in Congress for most of his adult life, lacks economic know-how and qualifications as the country teeters on the brink of recession.

McCain, in turn, has sought to resurrect the national security issue by trumpeting his decades-long experience on defense issues while arguing that Romney doesn't have the judgment needed in wartime. In a misleading attack, McCain also accused him of once wanting a timetable like the Democrats wanted for troop withdrawals.

Their intense fight underscores the extraordinarily close Florida race and the stakes at hand. Polls show them battling for the lead in the state, which offers the winner a hefty 57 delegates to the party's nominating convention and momentum heading into the Feb. 5 contests.

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Lifetime Mormon President Gordon B. Hinckley passes away

By Jennifer Dobner
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Thousands of believers were in mourning yesterday following the death of Gordon B. Hinckley, the humble head of the Mormon church who added millions of new members and labored long to burnish the faith's image as a world religion. An announcement of his successor was not expected for days.

Hinckley, the 15th president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, died Sunday of complications arising from old age, church spokesman Mike Otterson said. He was 97.

In a statement, President Bush praised Hinckley as a "deeply patriotic man."

"While serving for over seven decades in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Gordon demonstrated the heart of a servant and the wisdom of a leader. He was a tireless worker and a talented communicator who was respected in his community and beloved by his congregation," Bush said.

The church presidency is a lifetime position. Before Hinckley, the oldest church president was David O. McKay who was 96 when he died in 1970.

Hinckley, a grandson of Mormon pioneers, was president for nearly 13 years. He took over as president and prophet on March 12, 1995, and oversaw one of the greatest periods of expansion in church history.

The number of temples worldwide more than doubled, from 49 to more than 120 and church membership grew from about 9 million to about 13 million.

Dozens of mourners gathered Sunday night outside Mormon church headquarters to honor Hinckley. College students sang hymns by the light of their cell phones.



DOUGLAS C. PIZAC / AP PHOTO

REST IN PEACE: Talented and respected Mormon church President Gordon B. Hinckley died Sunday, Jan. 27, from complications produced by old age.

On yesterday, Kelly Ford, 28, of Kaysville stared at a painting of Hinckley in the church visitor's center as a snowstorm swirled outside and recalled how he took time to speak to teens.

"He was a complete optimist. ... He talked about our potential and what the Lord expects of us," Ford said. "He was the greatest optimist I've ever known."

Hinckley became by far his church's most traveled leader in history. And the number of Mormons outside the

United States surpassed that of American Mormons for the first time since the church, the most successful faith born in the United States, was founded in 1830.

Hinckley worked to show that his faith was far removed from its peculiar and polygamous roots. Still, during his tenure, the Roman Catholic Church, Southern Baptist Convention and United Methodist Church — the three largest U.S. denominations — each declared that Mormon doctrines depart from mainstream Christianity.

Methods for taking the flu vaccine improve with scientific research

By Randolph E. Schmid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Relief may be on the way for all those youngsters trembling at the thought of another needle jab. One day the flu vaccine may simply be placed under the tongue.

Korean researchers say the new vaccine worked in mice, avoiding not only the painful prick but also the discomfort some people feel from the inhaled vaccine.

The team led by Dr. Mi-Na Kweon of the International Vaccine Institute in Seoul reported their findings in yesterday's online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Better ways of delivering vaccine have long been under study, ranging from orally to inhaled, but all seem to have drawbacks.

Now, Kweon and colleagues say, two doses of influenza vaccine under the tongue of mice primed the animals' immune system to fight off what would otherwise have been a deadly dose of flu.

Next, they are turning their attention to people, to see if the under-the-tongue vaccine also prompts a strong immune response.

Placing a couple of drops of liquid under the tongue gets the vaccine directly to mucus membranes and prompts a response both in mucus tissues throughout the body as well as

**"If we were faced
with a pandemic,
the easier and more
acceptable we can ..."**

Dr. William Schaffner | Vanderbilt

in the immune system itself, the researchers said.

"These studies provide a basis for further human testing of this alternative form of needle-free vaccination. Aside from its convenience, sublingual vaccination appears to disseminate immunity to a broader range of organs than the classical routes of injecting or ingesting vaccines," said Dr. Cecil Czerkinsky, deputy director-general for laboratory science at the Institute.

"If these findings are replicated in humans, they could pave the way for the development of a new generation of vaccines that could be used for mass vaccination against respiratory infections, including the pandemic avian-human influenza viruses," he said in a statement.

Several research efforts applying vaccine to mucus membranes have been tried, seeking to avoid both the needle sticks that people dislike and the harsh environment of the digestive system that can damage or destroy a vaccine. Studies of under-the-

tongue of other medicines have also been done.

Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University noted that recent flu studies have involved nasal sprays.

However, he said while he had expected people to be averse to needles, he was surprised to discover that "many people are averse to people messing with their nose ... so there are limitations to nasal spray."

So for researchers looking for another means of doing this, "just a drop under the tongue at least will protect mice ... that's a very exciting and promising line of investigation," said Schaffner, who was not part of the research team.

And, he added, "if we were faced with a pandemic, the easier and more acceptable we can make the distribution of the vaccine the more rapidly we can protect a proportion of population."

Kweon also said in mouse studies there is a theoretical possibility of a nasal spray reaching the central nervous system, which would not happen with the under-the-tongue vaccine.

The under-the-tongue vaccine worked whether it was a live or inactivated virus, Kweon reported. And, she added, it could also be flavored to make it more acceptable.

The research was funded by the governments of the Republic of Korea, Sweden and Kuwait.

NATION BRIEFS

BG NEWS WIRE SOURCES

Sen. Kennedy endorses Barack Obama, plans to campaign for Democrat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two generations of Kennedys — the Democratic Party's best known political family — endorsed Barack Obama for president on yesterday, with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy calling him a "man with extraordinary gifts of leadership and character," a worthy heir to his assassinated brother.

"I feel change in the air," Kennedy said in remarks salted with scarcely veiled criticism of Obama's chief rival for the nomination, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as her husband, the former president.

"I have marveled at his grit and grace," he said of the man a full generation younger than he is.

Kennedy's endorsement was ardently sought by all three of the remaining presidential contenders, and he delivered it at a pivotal time in the race. A liberal lion in his fifth decade in the Senate, the Massachusetts senator is in a position to help Obama court Hispanic voters as well as rank-and-file members of labor unions, two key elements of the Democratic Party.

He is expected to campaign actively for Obama in the days before a string of delegate-rich primaries and caucuses across 24 states on Feb. 5, beginning later this week in Arizona, New Mexico and California.

The senator made his comments at a crowded campaign rally that took on the appearances of a Kennedy family embrace of Obama, who sat smiling as he heard their praise.

He was introduced by Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the late president, who said Obama "offers that same sense of hope and inspiration" as did her father. Rep. Patrick Kennedy also endorsed Obama from the stage before a boisterous crowd at American University.

Political fundraiser Tony Rezko arrested after bail revocation

CHICAGO (AP) — Indicted political

fundraiser Antoin "Tony" Rezko, who has poured thousands of dollars into Barack Obama's political campaigns, was arrested by federal agents yesterday after his bail was revoked.

Rezko has pleaded not guilty and is scheduled to stand trial this month on charges of fraud, attempted extortion and money laundering.

FBI Special Agent Tom Simon said Rezko was arrested at his home in suburban Wilmette on an arrest warrant that was issued by a federal judge after a prosecution motion to revoke Rezko's bail.

There was no immediate explanation for the bail revocation. A court appearance was scheduled later in the day.

Obama says he had no indication of any problems with Rezko when he accepted thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from him. When prosecutors unsealed their charges against Rezko in 2006, Obama gave \$11.50 in Rezko contributions to charities.

Lazar sentenced for lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Seymour Lazar, who pleaded guilty in a lucrative kickback scheme involving class-action lawsuits against some of America's largest corporations, was sentenced yesterday to six months home detention and two years probation.

He was also fined \$600,000.

Federal prosecutors said Lazar, 80, was paid about \$2.6 million to be a professional

plaintiff and help the prestigious law firm now known as Milberg Weiss in its pursuit of the lawsuits.

The firm made an estimated \$250 million over two decades by filing such legal actions, authorities said.

Three former partners at the New York-based firm are among the seven people who have pleaded guilty.

U.S. District Judge John F. Walter said he was outraged that a former lawyer such as Lazar could lie in legal proceedings.

The lack of respect for the court amounted to the "absolute height of arrogance," the judge said.

Lazar replied that he understood the concerns of the judge but felt that he has had sufficient punishment.

"I have been under investigation for seven or eight years and it has been seven or eight years of hard time and that is all I can say," Lazar said in court.

Lazar pleaded guilty in October to obstruction of justice, subscribing to a false tax return and making a false declaration to the court.

He could have faced up to 18 years in federal prison. As part of a plea deal, prosecutors recommended home detention because of Lazar's declining health and his age.

Lazar also agreed to forfeit \$1.5 million.

His attorney, Thomas Bienert, previously said Lazar took full responsibility for his actions.

Politicians believe economic stimulus could help

By Martin Crutsinger
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While a proposed economic stimulus plan could boost this year's deficit by \$100 billion, political leaders believe the flood of red ink is worth the cost if it keeps the country from falling into a prolonged recession.

Worries that any recession could be a severe one, far surpassing the last two mild, brief downturns in 1990-91 and 2001, have captured the attention of President Bush and other politicians, especially in an election year with the White House up for grabs.

Bush and House leaders reached a deal in record time last week that would provide \$150 billion in economic stimulus through tax rebates that will go to 117 million families and temporary tax breaks for businesses.

The House is rushing the proposal to a vote this week and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he hopes to have the package approved by the Senate and on the president's desk by Feb. 15.

While those plans could fall victim to desires by Senate Democrats to add support for unemployment benefits and food stamps — items that got left out of the House version — the administration is stressing the need for speed given the

**"This time we may
be moving quickly
enough to actually
make a difference."**

David Wyss | Chief Economist

recent economic data.

The Federal Reserve, alarmed by a global sell-off of stocks, cut a key interest rate by the largest amount in more than two decades in an emergency move last week and could cut rates again when the Fed holds a regularly scheduled meeting this week.

Concerns have mounted with a cascade of bad news on the economy, from multi-billion-dollar losses at some of the nation's biggest banks and investment houses to soaring mortgage defaults and a continued plunge in housing.

Many economists believe the proposed stimulus package contains the right mix of fast-acting relief that will have an impact, if not in averting a recession, at least in limiting the severity of any downturn.

"Most stimulus packages have been totally useless in the past because they didn't get through Congress until the recession was already over," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York. "This time we may be moving quickly enough to

actually make a difference."

The rescue effort will not be without its own costs. Economists estimated that the deficit for this year will be between \$100 billion and \$120 billion higher because of the stimulus package, primarily from the cost of the refund checks. Business tax breaks will reduce government revenue by a smaller amount this year; other costs from the business relief will take effect next year.

Economists at Global Insight, a private forecasting firm in Lexington, Mass., are projecting that this year's deficit, with the stimulus package included, will hit \$400 billion.

That would be the second highest imbalance on record in dollar terms, surpassed only by the all-time high of \$413 billion in 2004.

Even without the stimulus package, the Congressional Budget Office is forecasting that the deficit for 2008 will jump to \$219 billion, up from last year's \$163 billion. And CBO said its new estimate did not include still unapproved outlays for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which will probably push the deficit to around \$250 billion.

Adding a stimulus package will make that imbalance go even higher, but was seen by many economists as critical insurance against a severe downturn.

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Celeb gossip sells

Britney Spears' unusual life is a key selling point for media advertisers



JAE C. HONG | AP PHOTO

OOPS: Britney Spears arrives for the grand opening party of LAX nightclub at the Luxor.

By Jeremy Herron
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In the days after the Britney Spears soap opera rode a police-escorted gurney to its apex, celeb-mag sales spiked, traffic jammed gossip Web sites, tabloid TV ratings rose and paparazzi photo prices surged.

For a growing number of people and businesses, Britney's saga is about money: Every time she sinks to new lows, cash flows. And these days, no one is above the fray.

When a custody dispute devolved into a three-hour standoff at Spears' home Jan. 3, police officers and firefighters were pressed into duty. Television stations sent up helicopters, and cable news anchors reported the unfolding drama in real time. The Associated Press had two reporters working the story, with editors on both coasts updating it seven times throughout the night.

Spears is just one of many stars driving the growing multibillion dollar celebrity news industry. But the Spears story in particu-

"The product for the tabloid industry is the unusual, and Britney has been delivering that consistently."

Dan Smith | Indiana University

lar, with a new twist nearly every week, has become a very profitable sub-sector unto itself.

"Britney is the most bankable celebrity out there right now, and she has been for the past year," said Francois Navarre, founder of the paparazzi agency X17.

Spears became a can't-miss tabloid topic after filing for divorce from second husband Kevin Federline in November 2006. Since then, she's been in and out of rehab, shaved her head, revealed a bit too much above the hemline, was arrested after a traffic accident, and lost custody of her kids (and later her visitation rights).

"The product for the tabloid industry is the unusual, and Britney has been delivering that consistently," said Dan Smith,

dean of the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.

At a time when advertising spending in traditional media is declining, celebrity gossip titles such as Star, Us Weekly and In Touch Weekly are growing. That helped overall newsstand sales for magazines edge 1 percent higher, to \$2.39 billion, in the first half of 2007.

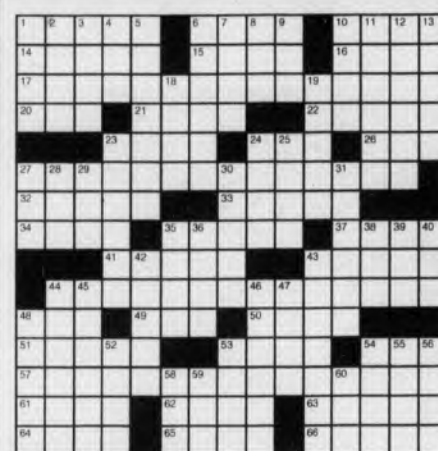
"The increase is almost entirely attributable to the growth of the celebrity magazine," said John Harrington, who runs industry consulting agency Harrington Associates.

Any time a magazine can boost newsstand sales past its average, the revenue is booked nearly entirely as profit, Harrington said: "People prints 2.5 million copies and sells about an average of 1.5 million. If they have an issue that sells 2 million, the extra half million goes to the bottom line."

People, which takes a broader and less sensational look at the entertainment industry, dominates the sector in circulation, but that hasn't stopped such new titles as In Touch and Life & Style Weekly from elbowing in.

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ACROSS

- 1 Thespian
- 6 Composition for two
- 10 Spring resorts
- 14 Rich dessert
- 15 Villa d'
- 16 Slang disposition
- 17 Start of a query
- 20 Peak
- 21 Etcher's need
- 22 Not ready
- 23 Editor's instruction
- 24 Pouch
- 26 -Magnon
- 27 Part 2 of query
- 32 Sky-lit lobbies
- 33 Muse of verse
- 34 River of Belgium
- 35 Market figures
- 37 London art gallery
- 41 "Guitar Town" singer Steve
- 43 Patronage

- 44 Part 3 of query
- 48 Hankering
- 49 Pipe buildup
- 50 Head signals
- 51 Load lightener
- 53 -mutuel
- 54 Mom's mate
- 57 End of query
- 61 British submachine gun
- 62 African lily
- 63 Exterior
- 64 Recipe meas.
- 65 Painful cry
- 66 Indian jacket style

- 1 Element fig.
- 2 Type of salmon
- 3 Golf course hazard
- 4 Giant slugger
- 5 Series of yacht races
- 6 Danny of "Get Shorty"
- 7 Exploited
- 8 UFO personnel
- 9 "The Daughter of Time" author
- 10 Knock senseless
- 11 Coup d'etat
- 12 Stick
- 13 Look after
- 18 Tracy Marrow on stage
- 19 Relative of should
- 23 "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" writer
- 24 Au naturel
- 25 Gray and Candler
- 27 Comic Romano
- 28 not my job!
- 29 Senior test letters
- 30 Amazon city
- 31 Tribal symbols
- 35 Sp. miss
- 36 Winged
- 38 Grow mellow
- 39 Sardine container
- 40 Superlative suffix

- 42 Hanna-Barbera dog
- 43 "The Spectator" co-founder
- 44 Big spreads
- 45 Top of the foot
- 46 Tooth cover
- 47 Purple seaweed
- 48 Leavening ingredient
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Steer bolts out open gate of slaughterhouse, runs loose in Cincinnati area

CINCINNATI (AP) — Searchers on the ground and in a sheriff's department helicopter yesterday were looking for an Angus steer that postponed its date with a slaughterhouse by bolting out a gate that had been inadvertently left open.

The more than 1,000-pound animal escaped from a slaughterhouse holding pen yesterday morning and ran into the woods of suburban Cincinnati, according to Colerain Township police and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

The steer was last seen heading into woods several blocks

north of Stehlin's Meat Market and Interstate 275, said Dick Stehlin, co-owner of the meat-packing business. He said the bovine should be approached with caution.

"It's not, say, a mean animal or anything like that, it's just sort of in a panic stage," Stehlin said. "It's just out running, not even knowing where it's heading."

It's not the first time a steer has been on the loose in the Cincinnati area. In September 2006, a steer named Little Red ran from a fair and eluded capture for three days.

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